

Senate Committee

COMMITTEE MINUTES for EDUCATION

Date: *January 25, 2017*

Location: *RM 22*

Convened: *4:05 PM*

Adjourned: *5:00 PM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Sinclair-CH, Edler-VC, Quirmbach-RM, Behn, Bowman, Chelgren, Danielson, Dvorsky, Greene, Hart, Johnson, C., Kraayenbrink, Lofgren, Mathis, Rozenboom

Absent:

Excused:

Minutes were approved

Arts Education Presentation

Senator Sinclair introduced guest presenters John Lloyd Young, Kelly Krestchmer, Christen Nicoll, Leon Kuehner, Nancy Standafer, David Baxter, Laura Thieben.

Mr. Kuehner gave opening remarks to the legislators thanking them for their support in the past years. He also gave updates on the approval process for state wide art standards.

Mrs. Krestchmer gave further information regarding the Turn Around arts program and the improvements being seen in attendance, discipline, and test scores with the program.

Mrs. Standafer gave a more in-depth explanation for where the funding would be utilized and confirmed any funding the legislature provided private organizations would match to ensure the programs ability to continue.

Mrs. Nicoll gave examples on how the mentor program was helping in rural schools. She discussed how having a mentor helped the transition into a classroom go smoother and allowed for new teachers to be less overwhelmed and receive more professional feedback.

Mrs. Standafer explained to the legislators how she as a mentee has helped new teachers and collaborated among her mentees to give the best help possible. She talked about how it was a good mix of feedback, new ideas, and communication among new teachers to help them grow into better teachers.

Mr. Baxter explained that having a mentor helped him skip over the struggle of having to adapt in a new environment and learn from mistakes. Instead his mentor helped him learn how to recognize for himself what worked in his classroom and what didn't and provided assistance whenever needed so that he felt he had someone experienced to go to at all times.

Mrs. Thieben talked about the benefits of having a mentor in rural areas where there is often only one teacher with the knowledge and experience in the arts field. She brought up the point

that having a mentor would reduce the chances of teachers burning out.

Mr. Young then spoke on his experience. He described how fulfilling the experience was and how dedicated he was to the program. Mr. Young explained to the committee how art is a tool for learning and enhances the lessons for everyone while encouraging creativity.

Senator Sinclair wanted clarification on the timeline for the mentor program.

Mr. Kuehner confirmed that the program was on a two year timeline where the first year teachers received four visits and the following year, two.

Senator Quirmbach expressed his hopes to continue funding this program and asked what they needed to make this program reach every school in Iowa.

Mr. Kuehner responded by clarifying that if the state wide art standards were met, the program would be more accessible to all schools. He also discussed his hope to change education by changing the perception of what education is and how it should be taught.

Senator Chelgren asked if it would be possible to refer teacher union dues into this program for the first two years to help assist and allow it to grow quickly.

Senator Greene expressed his appreciation for their commitment and patience through their work.

Senator Hart discussed her hopes to expand this program to not only the arts, but all departments of education to help prevent all teachers from burning out. She also asked how they decided which teachers to use as mentors.

Mr. Kuehner explained the process for selecting mentors and assigning them to the right areas. He described the different members sitting on a panel to assign mentors and shared that in the past ten years only one mentee and mentor pairing did not work out.

Senator Sinclair thanked them for their time and dedication to the program.

Senator Johnson moves we arise.

Senator Amy Sinclair

Casey Nickel, Committee Secretary